



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,105	03/19/2001	Masahiko Igaki	P/2856-21	9666

2352 7590 01/30/2004

OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN
1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 100368403

EXAMINER

AZARIAN, SEYED H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/812,105

Applicant(s)

IGAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Seyed Azarian

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4, 6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haruki et al (U.S. patent 4,632,252).

Regarding claim 1, Haruki discloses mail-sorting system with coding devices comprising; a postal information input apparatus in which when a postcode to be read by a reader of a postal matter sorting machine cannot be normally read, a correct postcode is reentered manually from an input device, wherein a first display means which displays on a display device of said input apparatus a first display so as to indicate that said postal information input apparatus receives a data to be input from said postal matter sorting machine, and also displays an unprocessed number in said postal information input apparatus, is provided (column 2, lines 4-24, the coding device displays the rejected image on display device so that the operator can enter correct data such as the correct zip code, also Fig. 3, column 3, lines 42 through column 4, line 7,

CRT display the rejected image (or unprocessed number) and a key board for inputting the correct zip codes by operator).

Regarding claim 4, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus, wherein said first display is an icon display on a display device of said postal information input apparatus (column 3, lines 8-24, scanning postal mail to read the zip code or address printed on the mail).

Regarding claim 6, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus, wherein a display deletion means for deleting said first display and said second display, when said data to be input corresponding to said first display is input within a predetermined time, is provided (see claim 2, and Fig. 7, column 6, line 61 through column 7, line 6, refer to deleting step).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2,3 and 5, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haruki et al (U.S. patent 4,632,252) in view of Hiramatsu et al (U.S. patent 5,697,504).

Regarding claim 2, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus wherein a second display means for displaying on said display device a second display indicating that if said data to be input cannot be input within a predetermined time, said predetermined time has passed, is provided (Fig. 5, column 4, lines 20-46, the read time of the earliest recognition data is

Art Unit: 2625

compared with present time and if the difference between read time and present time is beyond the time required for mail to pass through waiting pat, and column 6, lines 50 through column 7, line 6, there is no rejection data left in the file unit if a predetermined time larger than any expected actual time).

However Haruki is silent about "predetermined time". On the other hand Hiramatsu teaches a coding system, which allows the operator to perform a coding operation efficiently and tirelessly within a short period of time (column 1, lines 49-63).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Haruki mail sorting system invention according to the teaching of Hiramatsu because it provides an improvement in a video coding system for a allowing the operator to input a user code with respect to rejected postal matter, which the user code cannot be read, to achieve accuracy and better result.

Regarding claims 3, 5 and 7, it recites similar limitation as claims 1 and 2 are similarly analyzed.

Allowable claims

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The claim 8, is allowable due to the first display means which displays on a display device of said input apparatus a first display so as to indicate that said postal information input apparatus receives a data to be input from said postal matter sorting machine, and also displays an unprocessed number in said postal information input apparatus, and a second display means, which is a display state in which said first display has changed from a first display state of said first display to a second display state thereof, for displaying said second display state indicating

that if said data to be input cannot be input within a predetermined time, said predetermined time has passed.

These key features in combination with the other features of the claimed invention are neither taught nor suggested by the art of record.

Claims 9-12 recite substantial very similar limitations as claim 8 above and are allowed for the same reason.

Claims 8-14 are allowable.

Other prior art cited

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. patent (5,971,391) to Salomon et al is cited for nudger for a mail handling system.

U.S. patent (6,327,373) to Yura is cited for mail address reading apparatus and mail sorting apparatus.

U.S. patent (6,587,572) to Suchenwirth-Bauersachs et al is cited for mail distribution information recognition method and device.

U.S. patent (6,003,857) to Salomon et al is cited for singulating apparatus for a mail handling system.

U.S. patent (6,370,446) to Divine is cited for apparatus for assisting manual sorting of mail articles.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Azarian whose telephone number is (703) 306-5907.

Art Unit: 2625

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta, can be reached at (703) 308-5246.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

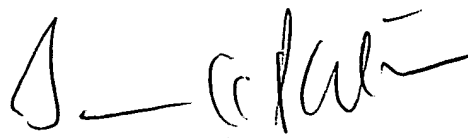
Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, ("draft" or "informal" communications should be clearly labeled to expedite delivery to examiner).

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to T.C. customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Seyed Azarian
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2625
January 25, 2004


Jayanti K. Patel
Primary Examiner

